

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A retractable barrier for visually blocking a pathway, comprising:
 - a first post assembly having a net carrier assembly, an upper flange, a lower
 - 5 post mount, and a non-rotating cap, said net carrier rotatably supported to rotate about an axis;
 - a net secured on one end to said net carrier and having a second post coupled to another end;
 - a spring disposed between said cap and said upper flange, said spring
 - 10 anchored to said cap and supplying a retraction bias to said net carrier assembly;
 - a first ground sleeve for insertion in the ground and adapted to releasably engage said lower post mount;
 - a second ground sleeve for insertion in the ground and adapted to releasably
 - 15 engage said second post;
 - wherein said barrier is moveable between a retracted configuration where said net is substantially wound onto said net carrier assembly and a deployed configuration where
 - said lower post mount is inserted in said first ground sleeve;
 - 20 said axis is generally vertical;
 - said second post is remote from said first post assembly and inserted in said second ground sleeve; and
 - said net extends therebetween.

2. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said first post assembly further comprises a center post around which said net carrier assembly rotates, said center post secured to said cap.

3. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said first post assembly further comprises a lower flange below said net and a generally curved shroud extending between said upper flange and said lower flange.

4. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said spring is a flat coil spring.

5. The barrier of claim 4 wherein said spring is a constant force flat coil spring.

6. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said net carrier includes a slit on an upper end thereof, and wherein said spring engages said slit.

7. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said post assembly further comprises a lower flange, said net carrier assembly disposed between said upper and lower flanges and extending through said upper flange.

8. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said net is orange.

9. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said net extends generally vertically upward from proximate the ground to a height of at least two feet in said deployed configuration.

10. The barrier of claim 1 wherein said first and second ground sleeves have pointed lower ends.

11. A retractable barrier for visually blocking a pathway, comprising:

a first post assembly having a net carrier assembly, an upper flange, a lower post mount, and a non-rotating cap, a center post around which said net carrier assembly rotates, said center post secured to said cap, said net carrier rotatably supported to rotate about an axis;

a net secured on one end to said net carrier and having a second post coupled to another end;

wherein said first post assembly further comprises a lower flange below said net and a generally curved shroud extending between said upper flange and said lower flange, and wherein said net carrier assembly is disposed between said upper and lower flanges and extends through said upper flange;

a flat coil spring disposed between said cap and said upper flange, said spring having a first end anchored to said cap and a second end engaging said net carrier assembly, said spring supplying a retraction bias to said net carrier assembly;

wherein said net carrier includes a slit on an upper end thereof, and wherein said spring engages said slit;

a first ground sleeve for insertion in the ground and adapted to releasably engage said lower post mount;

a second ground sleeve for insertion in the ground and adapted to releasably engage said second post;

wherein said barrier is moveable between a retracted configuration where
said net is substantially wound onto said net carrier assembly and a
deployed configuration where

said lower post mount is inserted in said first ground sleeve;

5 said axis is generally vertical;

said second post is remote from said first post assembly and inserted in

said second ground sleeve; and

said net extends therebetween; and

wherein said net extends generally vertically upward from proximate the

10 ground to a height of at least two feet in said deployed configuration.